Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL ADANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1020

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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TAGS: PINS, TU

SUBJ: STUDENT UNREST AND VIOLENCE IN ADANA

REF: ADANA 0259

1. ON 7 JAN THREE SEPARATE INCIDENTS BROKE THE PEACE WHICH HAD PREVAILED SINCE LATE NOVEMBER ON THE STUDENT FRONT IN ADANA.
2. IN A THUS FAR PEACEFUL MOVE, STUDENTS AT THE ADANA MOTOR TRADE AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL BEGAN A BOYCOTT TO PROTEST THE RECENT VETO OF A LAW WHICH WOULD HAVE ENABLED GRADUATES OF SUCH SCHOOLS TO ENTER UNIVERSITIES. PRESS REPORTS STATED THAT THE STUDENTS INSISTED THEIR BOYCOTT WAS NOT POLITICAL. ALL THEY WANTED WAS THE RIGHT TO ENTER UNIVERSITIES. THE BOYCOTT WOULD

CONTINUE UNTIL THAT RIGHT WAS GRANTED

3. AT THE ADANA ACADEMY FOUR STUDENTS WERE WOUNDED IN A SERIOUS OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING. ACCORDING TO THE DEAN, THE BRAWL STARTED AT THE STUDENT CAFETERIA AFTER SOME STUDENTS TORE UP A COPY OF THE NEWSPAPER CUMHURIYET, WHICH WAS BEING READ BY ONE OF THE STUDENTS. THE WOUNDED STUDENTS WERE HOSPITALIZED AND SEVERAL ARRESTS WERE MADE. 4. ANOTHER POTENTIAL BRAWL WAS DEFUSED LATER IN THE EVENING WHEN THE RIOT POLICE RESTORED ATATURK'S PICTURE TO THE WALL OF A STUDENT UNCLASSIFIED

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DORMITORY, IT HAVING BEEN REPLACED EARLIER IN THE EVENING BY VARIOUS

NAP PARTY SYMBOLS AND A PORTAIT OF TURKES. PRIOR TO THE RESTORATION OF ATATURK TO HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE, SEVERAL HUNDRED STUDENTS MARCHING TOWARD THE GOVERNOR'S HOUSE IN PROTEST HAD BEEN CHECKED IN THEIR ADVANCE IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER'S RESIDENCE. WHILE THE SITUATION WAS TENSE FOR AWHILE, THE RIOT POLICE HANDLED THE MOB WITH SKILL, AND THE STUDENTS EVENTUALLY RETURNED PEACEFULLY TO THE DORMITORY.

5. MEANWHILE, THE SITUATION AT ADANA'S PRINCIPAL INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, CUKUROVA UNIVERSITY, REMAINED CALM. THE RECTOR AND THE DEAN OF THE AGRICULTURAL FACULTY HAVE BOTH RECENTLY TOLD ME, HOWEVER, THAT THIS CALM IS PRESERVED ONLY THROUGH CONSTANT VIG-

ILANCE ON THEIR PART, AND PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE MAINTANCE OF CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH THE STUDENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, THEY NOTE THAT THE LOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY IN THE RURAL SETTING ON THE EDGE OF THE CITY IS A REAL ADVANTAGE TO THEM. IN ADDITION TO ISOLATING THE STUDENTS FROM INCIDENTS WHICH BREAK OUT IN THE CITY, IT SIMPLIFIES THE PROBLEM OF KEEPING OUT NON-STUDENTS WHO FREQUENTLY ATTEMPT TO ENTER THE CAMPUS WITH THE INTENTION OF FOMENTING TROUBLE. THEY ALSO FEEL THAT STUDENT MORALE AT CUKUROVA IS GOOD, BOUYED BY SUCH ATTRACTIONS AS THREE LIRA-LUNCHES AND FREE BUS TRANSPORTATION TO THE CITY, AMONG OTHER THINGS. NOTWITHSTANDING THESE ADVANTAGES, HOWEVER, NEITHER THE RECTOR NOR THE DEAN ARE ENTIRELY CONFIDENT THAT THE CUKUROVA CAMPUS WILL REMAIN IMMUNE TO THE DIFFICULTIES PLAGUING OTHERS IN TURKEY.

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